

Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge History and Area of Responsibility

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The History of MSU Baton Rouge

Marine Inspection Detachment Baton Rouge was established in late 1966. In the early 1980's, the unit was upgraded to Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) as a detachment of Marine Safety Office New Orleans. Crew gradually increased from 2 personnel to its current level of 19 active, 14 reserve and 49 Auxiliary U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 4-10. The creation of MSD Baton Rouge drastically reduced the travel time to the rapidly growing ports of Greater Baton Rouge and Shreveport/ Bossier City. MSD Baton Rouge was upgraded to a Marine Safety Unit in February 2001 with its own Commanding Officer and Executive Officer.

This devoted group of professionals protects one of the busiest and most dynamic port areas in the United States. Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge's primary responsibilities include vessel inspections, foreign vessel boardings, facility inspections, pollution response and port security. Our area of responsibility covers over 340 miles of the Mississippi River from the Sunshine Bridge (located approximately halfway between Baton Rouge and New Orleans) to the Arkansas border, the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway (Red River) from the Texas border to its confluence with the Atchafalaya and Mississippi River, and parts of the Inland Waterway, the Atchafalaya, the Ouachita and the Yazoo Rivers.

In an average year, MSU Baton Rouge conducts approximately 1000 vessel inspections, conducts approximately 100 foreign vessel boardings, inspects 99 bulk liquid facilities and 9 dry bulk facilities, investigates approximately 300 pollution incidents and investigates over 200 marine casualties.

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Created

12/08/2002

Updated

02/05/2007 09:33:07



Geographical Area of Responsibility

MSU Baton Rouge is responsible for marine safety activities on the following waterways in Louisiana and Mississippi:

- Lower Mississippi River mile 167 north to mile 305
- Port Allen-Morgan City Alternate Route from mile 30 to the Port Allen Locks
 - Atchafalaya River mile 0 to mile 45.5
 - Red River mile 0 to mile 69
- Lake Maurepas north of the Livingston Parish line

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